

HAMAS TEMPERS EXTREME STANCES IN BID FOR POWER

BATTLE FOR CREDIBILITY

Presenting a Moderate Face to Gain Ground Against Fatah

By IAN FISHER

JERUSALEM — Hamas, the militant group built around violent resistance to Israel, sought on Monday to present a more moderate public face, taking its next shot in an intensifying struggle for leadership of the Palestinian cause and international recognition.

Released by Hamas just days before its chief rival, the Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas, was to meet President Trump, a new document of principles for the group calls for closer ties to Egypt, waters down the anti-Semitic language from its charter, and accepts at least a provisional Palestinian state — though it still does not formally recognize Israel.

With its statement, Hamas is trying to offer a more mainstream-friendly version of its vision for the Palestinian cause, and to gain ground against Mr. Abbas, whose influence is growing more tenuous.

Mr. Abbas is 82 years old, and his rivals within his own Fatah movement are increasingly open about the struggle to succeed him. Seeking to regain the initiative, he has recently waged a crack-down on Hamas, cutting salaries due to them from the Palestinian Authority and refusing to pay for electricity in the militant group's power base in Gaza.

The split between the two groups — Fatah in the West Bank, Hamas in Gaza — has stood as one of the major obstacles in the peace process with Israel: Who, the Israelis ask, is their partner if the Palestinians are so deeply divided? That division has also been convenient for, and encouraged by, those on the Israeli right who do not want a peace deal.

But the Hamas document, which has been leaking for weeks, is less a change in Hamas's fundamental beliefs than a challenge for the credibility of Palestinians in both Gaza and the West Bank, as well as internationally.

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Fox News, Pledging New Culture, Ousts Another Symbol of Old One

By MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM and EMILY STEEL

Fox News forced out one of its most senior executives on Monday, the latest aftershock of a sexual harassment scandal that has engulfed the television network and pressured its owners, the Murdoch family, into a painful and protracted public housecleaning.

The exit of Bill Shine — a co-president at the network and a close ally of Roger E. Ailes, its former chairman — came nearly 10 months after Mr. Ailes was removed in the wake of numerous harassment allegations. Mr. Shine's departure could portend

Local TV Mergers in Works

Media companies are looking to consolidate after the F.C.C. relaxed its rules on how many stations they can own. Page B1.



ZAKARIA ABDELKAFI/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

A Clash of Protesters and Politics

Police officers in Paris at a May Day rally, one of several in France, where unions are divided over the presidential election. Page A6.

Australia Feels Its Ties to U.S. Put It in a Bind

By DAMIEN CAVE

DARWIN, Australia — South Korea, Japan and the United States have grown accustomed to North Korea's diatribes, but Pyongyang recently threatened a new target with a nuclear strike: Australia.

During a visit by Vice President Mike Pence to Sydney, the North warned Australia to think twice about "blindly and zealously toeing the U.S. line" and acting as "a shock brigade of the U.S. master." Australian and American troops have fought side by side in every major conflict since World War I, and there are few militaries in the world with closer relations: 1,250 United States Marines recently arrived in Darwin for six months of joint exercises; the two countries share intelligence from land, sea and even outer space; and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is slated to meet President Trump on Thursday on an aircraft carrier in New York.

But North Korea's threat against the country, far-fetched as it might seem, is an example of how Australia's most important

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WHITE HOUSE MEMO

This President Doesn't Go by the (History) Book

By PETER BAKER and JONAH ENGEL BROMWICH

WASHINGTON — If nothing else, President Trump has already secured a place in history. It is his grasp of history that seems less secure.

In his latest foray into what might be called the alternative past, Mr. Trump suggested that Andrew Jackson had been "really angry" about the Civil War, which did not break out until 16 years after his death. And for good measure, Mr. Trump questioned "why was there the Civil War" in the first place, suggesting that it should have simply been worked out.

The comments, made in an interview broadcast on Monday,

Remarks on Civil War Underscore Tenuous Grasp of the Past

may have been attributable to imprecision, but for historians they underscored what seems to be a tenuous understanding by Mr. Trump of the course of events that preceded his ascension to power. At various points, he has seemed to suggest that Frederick Douglass is still alive, appeared surprised that Abraham Lincoln was a Republican, and mounted a plaque at a golf course marking a Civil War battle that never happened.

"Presidents should have some better sense of the nation's history as they become part of it," said Julian E. Zelizer, a presidential historian at Princeton.

White House officials said that Mr. Trump was being misinterpreted and that a few random comments had been twisted into meaning something they did not. The criticism of his remarks, they said, reflects a "gotcha" game by intellectual elitists who fail to understand him.

"There's a certain amount of hunting for 'what is it that Trump has done that's dumb?'" said Newt Gingrich, the former speaker of the House, who taught history as a college professor in Georgia and has written

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TRUMP OVERTURE TO NORTH KOREA IS FULL OF RISKS

IMPROMPTU DIPLOMACY

Offering to Meet With Kim While Duterte Gives a Brush-Off

By MARK LANDLER

WASHINGTON — President Trump continued his outreach to rogue leaders on Monday, declaring he would meet North Korea's dictator, Kim Jong-un, provided the circumstances were right, even as the Philippine president, Rodrigo Duterte, brushed aside the president's invitation to visit the White House, saying he might be "too busy."

Mr. Trump's unorthodox overtures — to a nuclear-armed despot who brutally purged his rivals, and an insurgent politician accused of extrajudicial killings of drug suspects — illustrated the president's confidence in his ability to make deals and his willingness to talk to virtually anyone.

Above all, they highlighted his penchant for flouting the norms of diplomacy, no matter his larger aim.

No sitting American president has met with a North Korean leader since Mr. Kim's grandfather Kim Il-sung established a Stalinist state there after the Korean War. However vague and impromptu, Mr. Trump's offer shook up an unsettled situation on the Korean Peninsula, which has been alarmed by the prospect of a military clash between the United States and the North.

"Kim Jong-un would be delighted to meet with President Trump on the basis of one nuclear leader to another," said Christopher R. Hill, a career diplomat who was special envoy on North Korea under President George W. Bush. "If I were Trump I would pass on that."

Mr. Duterte's backhanded response to Mr. Trump, however, also showed the pitfalls of his personal brand of diplomacy. The president had already gotten fierce criticism from human rights groups for embracing a man viewed by many as being responsible for the deaths of thousands of people involved in the drug trade. Now he faces being snubbed by Mr. Duterte as well.

And he is working to keep open lines of communication with President Vladimir V. Putin, despite partially blaming the Russian leader last month for the continuing civil war in Syria. Mr. Trump

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HEALTH BILL After two false starts, the administration is still pushing for a vote. PAGE A17

TRUMPS' SECURITY Congress sets aside an extra \$120 million to protect the first family. PAGE A18

WALL STREET WORRY The president suggested breaking up the biggest banks. DealBook. PAGE B1



BENJAMIN NORMAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Lipstick Matched

Katy Perry at the Met Gala on Monday in Maison Martin Margiela by John Galliano. Page A24.

An Obscure Law Unravels Obama's Legacy, One Rule at a Time

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR

WASHINGTON — Just days after the November election, top aides to Donald J. Trump huddled with congressional staff members in Speaker Paul D. Ryan's suite of offices at the Capitol. The objective: not to get things done, but to undo them — quickly.

For about three months after Inauguration Day, Mr. Trump would have the power to wipe away some of his predecessor's most significant regulations with simple-majority votes from his allies in Congress.

But the clock was ticking. An obscure law known as the Congressional Review Act gives lawmakers 60 legislative days to

overturn major new regulations issued by federal agencies. After that window closes, sometime in early May, the process gets much more difficult: Executive orders by the president can take years to unwind regulations — well beyond the important 100-day yardstick for new administrations.

So in weekly meetings leading up to Jan. 20, the Trump aides and

lawmakers worked from a shared Excel spreadsheet to develop a list of possible targets: rules enacted late in Barack Obama's presidency that they viewed as a vast regulatory overreach that was stifling economic growth.

The result was a historic reversal of government rules in record

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NATIONAL A11-22

Rough Greeting at Borders

Travelers complain of severe treatment. Fadwar Alaoui, a Canadian, was turned away when she came to shop. PAGE A11

Worries Over a TV Suicide

Health experts take issue with how suicide is treated in Netflix's popular show "13 Reasons Why." PAGE A12

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Nerve Gas Attacks in Syria

A chemical attack in Syria in April was one in a series, witnesses and investigators say, with at least 64 people dead in two attacks in December. PAGE A7

Arrests in Russia Protest

The Russian police detained about 20 gay rights protesters rallying against abuses in Chechnya. PAGE A8

NEW YORK A24-25

Welcoming a Ferry Service

Mayor Bill de Blasio greeted some of the first commuters on a ferry from Queens to Manhattan. PAGE A24



SPORTSTUESDAY B8-12

Bigger, Faster, Frailer

Noah Syndergaard, who has a torn torso muscle, can do it all — except, perhaps, throw properly. On Baseball. PAGE B8

ESPN Accused of Liberal Bias

Conservative critics have celebrated the network's struggles, saying its coverage of social issues is slanted. PAGE B8

SCIENCE TIMES D1-6

Clues to Zika's Damage

In cases of twins, the virus usually infects both twins if they are identical, but only one if fraternal. The difference may offer a telling clue. PAGE D1

BUSINESS DAY B1-7

Fund Manager Ousts Chief

A reshuffling at AllianceBernstein comes as investors abandon active money managers in favor of less expensive exchange-traded funds. PAGE B1

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A26-27

David Leonhardt

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A Mother-Daughter Sitcom

Tracey Wigfield is used to her mother inserting herself into her professional and personal life. Now she has turned that into NBC's "Great News." PAGE C1

